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Recreation Board Meeting  
January 10,2024

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to open the meeting?

Ann Brennan - So moved

Second - Aly DeAngelo

All in favor - Motion is approved.

Roger Carroll I will now take a roll call.

Eric Acton - Present

Ann Brennan Present

Roger Carroll - Present

Clare Ceballos - Present

Aly DeAngelo - Present

Joanne Pickrell - Absent

School Board Representative

Tyler Stanley - Absent

Lori Ann Feibel - City Council Representative

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to approve the December minutes.

So moved - Clare Ceballos

Second - Ann Brennan

All in favor - the motion is approved.

## **Director's Report**

### **Year Of The Parks**

#### **Four Season Shelter House**

Mike Price - We contracted with MSA Design to take us through the Schematic Design. There are no construction documents. But if the schematic design gets support from the city and we have funds to build it we will move forward with construction documents and construction oversight. We hope to start meeting with their team and figuring out the design.

#### **Skate Park**

Mike Price - We have a public workshop scheduled for January 18 at 6:00 p.m. We had a committee meeting at the end of this week.

Roger Carroll - did you involve the middle school student in the process.

Mike Price - Yes through the survey and we did ask that the information be sent to the schools about the public meeting. We do have a high school student on the committee

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Mike Price - We have a great committee that knows skating. They can speak on this level about design. They really know their stuff.

Aly DeAngelo - Have the residents there been engaged?

Mike Price - Not other than offering the public workshop. Those are apartments and Mayor Kessler has spoken to the landlord. I will make sure they receive communication about the public meeting.

Mike Price - The committee thought the area listed #8 would be used a lot and thought it might not be located in the middle of the park since they felt it would be crowded so there will be some adjustments there. So there will be some adjustments there before the public meeting.

We feel good about funding. Not sure of the cost yet but we still have money from the Year of the Parks fund.

The idea is to take the feedback from the public meeting and incorporate it into the design and get the committee to approve a final design and to then go out to bid for construction.

Ann Brennan - when will it be completed?

Mike Price - I assume if funding is not an issue, or if there are dramatic changes we have to make, I am hopeful this calendar year. I would love to see it completed this Fall. I think that is realistic

Ann Brennan - There is no light there

Mike Price - Correct there is no lighting there

Ann Brennan - So there is no specific cut off ? Are there signs that say when the park closes?

Mike Price - Yes that is a good point to have a sign posted when the park closes.

### **Schneider Park Bridge**

Mike Price - We were notified that we received a \$500,000 grant from the state for the construction of the pedestrian bridge at Schneider Park. It will connect the trail system on the Columbus side to the Bexley side. We are going through design efforts on that.

### **Commonwealth Public Workshop**

Mike Price - The pond is filled. There will be a public workshop on Wednesday, January 24 at 5:30 at City Hall to discuss the potential unification of Commonwealth East and West. We have some semantic designs that we will present. It would be mostly turf but not for athletic use. It would be broken up with trees. It would not be designed to be a third field.

### **Preservation and Enhancement Committee Update**

Mike Price - We met today to finish reviewing the first draft for park enhancement improvements. Gave a lot of good feedback to OHM and the design team with them. That has focused on everything but the woodland management which will be a second component within that.

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The goal is to take that draft and take it to a public workshop on February 8 at 5:30 with the location to be announced. We will take the feedback from the public and incorporate it into a final plan for the committee to review and then be sent to the Recreation Board.

One of the topics that has come up is pickleball lights and the desire for lights to be added. I asked those interested in pickleball lights to attend and speak on that to the preservation committee in the context of the committee's efforts to actively plan around Jeffrey Park. The Rec.Board will decide what is in that plan but obviously things can happen outside the plan.

Eric Acton - What time does the park close ?

Mike Price - Dusk. The lights at the tennis courts are on a timer and are shut off at 10:00. The thought was during June, July and August we play pickleball until 9:00 anyway. If we get light we could play until October. One of the drawbacks is noise pollution and impact on neighbors. I think some park users would have some concerns about that also. When we put the pickle ball courts in we were concerned with noise. But we have heard virtually nothing from residents. We have sent letters to everyone on Clifton Ave. regarding the lights and what do you think about it .

I don't think the light itself is the issue, because if we do pickleball lights we would replace all the lighting with a focused lighting system that does not bleed over the courts. The noise is an issue. The two people who responded to the letters their biggest concern was the noise. At some point it is going to come in front of the board.

Ann Brennan - I am concerned the negative impact pickleball lights have on wildlife. And think we can weigh in on lights at the next preservation meeting. Can we try to mitigate the impact on wildlife?

Mike Price - The individuals advocating for the lights have put a survey together. The Pickleball players would like to have the lights.

Mike Price - One of the concerns I do have is that these situations become legal matters. When you change the environment there by adding lights you can push an individual about being comfortable with it. The neighbors are being exposed to the noise. We do have the ability to shut the lights off at this time and these months for these reasons. We have the ability to control that. Once you put the lights up the expectation is to get more access.

Lori Ann Feibel - We are an arboretum so maybe we should educate the public more on trees / wildlife in our area and how they are impacted.

### **Playground Discussion**

Lori Ann Feibel - Do we have a new playground in the Park Master Plan? Danny Hurley mentioned the need for our playground to be more inclusive and accessible.

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Mike Price - We have in the capital budget for this year money to redo the playground since it has met its life expectancy. I would encourage, with the new playground to provide a rubberized surface to make it more accessible for someone in a wheelchair. That is one aspect of accessibility as well as the types of components within the playground is another.

### **2023 End of Year Budget**

Mike Price - I want to give the board a synopsis of the 2023 budget. Revenue was up \$284,000 from our original projection. We originally projected \$1.86 million in revenue, the actual was \$2.14 million in revenue. This is \$284,000 above the projection. In order to do that we have to spend more money because we have more kids in the program we have to have more staff . It is not void of any offset of expenses.

The original budget was \$2.1million that was based on that we had \$130,000 in unspent appropriation.This is just Rec.Fund not seniors, not pool, not parks. The initial budget was for \$2,106,032 million the actual was \$2,240,879 million We spent more than was budgeted because we had additional appropriations through the year.

Expenses were up \$134,847 from what was anticipated. Revenue was up \$284,000 and expenses were up \$134,000. The net was about \$100,000 revenue versus expenses.

This doesn't take into consideration there is a \$250,000 general fund transfer or the \$111,000 debt service expense that comes out of the Rec. Fund for the mansion project or some of the capital items that came out of the Rec. Fund.

This is just a quick synopsis of our operational program costs and operational program revenue

We did better than anticipated from a net loss perspective and the bottom line is that our Rec. Fund balance is less impacted by that loss.

Ann Brennan - Asked about the net loss

Mike Price - Our projected net loss going into it was \$1.8 million versus \$2.1 million

### **Revenue**

Recreation	\$484k
Summer Camp	\$582k
Rentals	\$175k
Preschool	\$333k
BacPack	\$567k
Misc	\$4k
Total	\$2,145k

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### **Winter /Spring Brochure /Registration**

Mike Price - Registration opened yesterday. Kudos to Natalie who makes the entire Brochure project work. Resident registration opened yesterday, non-resident registration will open tomorrow.

Yesterday we had 1,565 registrations. In 2023 we had 1393 which is a 12% increase. In terms of revenue we had \$112,897 and in 2023 we had \$102,712 which is a 10% increase.

We will continue to evaluate the wait lists , we have programs that are in higher demand than others. Tennis is a program that there is nothing we can do to accommodate the waitlist. It's a facility issue because it is indoor and we have less facility options for that.

It is located at Montrose. Some are limited by facility and there is nothing we can do and some by instructors time and availability. Where we can make adjustments we do.

### **Ice Rink**

Mike Price - The rink is scheduled to open on Tuesday, January 16 and will likely remain open through Tuesday, January 23. Weekdays we will have 3 - 1 hour sessions and weekends we will do 8 - 1 hour sessions.

The rink is located in the meadow behind the mansion. We changed the location. The meadow by the pool has a significant slope which caused the ice rink to go from about 6 inches of water to 2 feet. That results in an inconsistency in the freezing of the ice, one side takes longer to freeze than the other. In the meadow behind the Mansion there is only about a 6 inch difference from one side to the other. Therefore there is a consistency on how quickly it freezes and how long it stays frozen. It is the same size.

The four season shelter will provide some infrastructure for the ice rink in the meadow.

We will charge \$6.00 for a 1 hour session that includes hot chocolate and skates.

Roger Carroll - The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ann Brennan - So moved

Aly DeAngelo - Second

All in favor - The motion is approved.